FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1882.

Academy of Munic. Il Barbier di Siviglia. American Instifute. Id av, letwen 533 and 64th sia. Bijon Opera House. The Sirecres. Big Indian Wigwam. 3th at and Breadway. Rooth's Theatre-The Lights o' Landon. Ennacil's Museum Broadway, cor. 9th st. Chickering Wall—Concert. Dair's Theoree—Our English Priend. Grand Opera House-Lip Baverly a Boster San'l of Pesen. Badisan Nauere I bester Young Mrs. Winthrep New York Museum Lis Howery. Niklo's Garden — 18.0

Nikio's Garden—" 19."

San Francisco Minstrels—Broadway and 29th st.

Rta. dard Theatre—Johnthe

Thistin Theatre—Elie Leichte Person,

Theatre Countque McSoriey's Infiation, Mailnes. Tony Pastor's Theatre-Variety, Matthee, Enion Square Theatre—The Rantzaus. Wallach's Theatre—The Queen's Sailling Windsor Theatre—Minstelly.

A Bad Bankruptcy Bill.

The Bankruptey bill now before the Senate ought not to be passed. It is the so-called Equity scheme which was brought forward last year in opposition to the Lower bill. framed by the Circuit Judge of the United States for the First Circuit. The LOWELL bill is good, and the Equity scheme is bad.

The fundamental objection to the Equity scheme is that it vests the Federal judiciary with vast but ill-defined powers, without any guide as to the manner in which they shall be exercised. It bestows too much author'ty upon the courts. So entirely different is the system it would establish from that which existed under our former Bankrupt laws that the decisions under those statutes would afford very little light upon the proper methods of procedure. The Court will have everything to say and the creditors little or nothing concerning the administration of the bankrupt's estate, if this Equity scheme becomes the law; and, owing to the absence of precedents, the creditors will be unable to predict with any certainty what the action of the Court will be under any given circum-

'Among the particular features wherein the Equity scheme is inferior to the Lowell bill. we may mention its provision for the appointment of a receiver by the Court, whereas the LOWELL bill allows the creditors to choose their own assignee; the power which it gives a single creditor to throw his debtor into bankruptcy, whereas the LOWELL bill requires that a petition to put a man into involuntary bankruptcy must be filed by at least three creditors; the ability of a bare majority of the creditors in number and amount to compel a composition, while under the Lowell bill the assenting creditors must represent three-fourths of the amount of debts; and the retention of the fee system for officials in the Equity scheme, as against the salaries provided for by the LOWELL bill.

With the possible exception of Mr. Justice BLATCHFORD of the Superme Court of the United States, Judge LOWELL probably knows more about the law of bankruptcy generally, and about what the law of bank ruptcy for this country ought to be in order to do justice to debtors and creditors, and to be capable of efficient administration by the courts, than any other man in America. He has put his ideas on the subject into an excellent bill, which Congress ought to pass in place of the Equity scheme. The latter would be worse than no Bankruptcy law at all.

The District of Columbia.

After the exposure of the excesses and the corruption of Boss Shepherd's Ring Government at Washington in 1874 Congress abolished it and substituted three Commissioners, clothed with municipal powers. This change was intended as a tem porary expedient, but it has run on for eight years, very much in the ruts of the old machine, with its bureaus, and with many of the officials that Shepherd had fastened on the District for his own venal objects.

The act of 1874 provided that Congress ould thereafter appropriate one-half of the local expenses, upon the ground that public property represented that proportion of equitable taxation. This principle was fair, and would have been unobjectionable if economy and care had been adopted in the management of the District affairs. The population of the District of Columbia is now perhaps 185,000, one-third being ne grocs, most of them non-taxpavers. The estimated expenses for the next fiscal year ex-

ceed three and a half millions of dollars. Of this sum one million three hundred thousand dollars go for interest on the debt left is true that such a contraction in the number by the Shepherd Ring. It is thus seen that about two and a quarter

millions annually are drawn from the taxpayers and from Congress to carry on a little municipality of six miles square. This outlay is all the more audacious because a formal report made to the Senate showed that, including the debt and the appropriations, Boss Shepherd's rule had involved some fifty millions of dollars of expenditure.

Several of the large States, and nearly all money than is levied every year for the District of Columbia. The seeds of extravagance and of spoliation were planted deep when the plain and orderly and economical municipal forms were thrust aside for an ostentatious territorial Government, invented expressly to make stealing large and easy by a Ring that flourished under GRANT, and was upheld by him in all its atrocious tyranny and its robbery of a helpless community.

The machinery used for this small population is modelled after that of the Federal Government, with a multitude of bureaus and a swarm of sinecures and complicated administration, feeding on the Treasury without pretending to render any equivalent for the tally abolishing any part of the internal salaries they draw.

The triple-headed Commission is without the individual responsibility which necessarily centres in one executive chief, like a Mayor. As a necessary consequence, looseness and prodigality are visible in every direction. The police force is utterly demoralized from the want of stern accountability and of enforced discipline. Crime has increased appallingly at the capital.

One of the oldest detectives recently admitted in open court that he had aided and abetted the Star route defence against the Government from which he was drawing regular pay. In the ordinary course of things he would have got off with a rebuke, and nothing but the demand for an example compelled his dismissal.

What confidence can be felt in a force ostensibly maintained for the public protection, when its members practise this sort of | tains those features of the system by which treachery? It is not at all surprising, in view of much experience, that the belief should be widespread and decided that the police and detectives have connived at the numerous burglaries and robberies which have become common at Washington in the

The people of the United States have contributed liberally to beautify and to adorn

them enjoy any advantage from this taxation. They have a right to insist on honesty in the conduct of its affairs. The prese form of government is cumbrous, costly, and irresponsible. It ought to be abolished.

If Congress be unwilling to allow the people of the District to govern themselves, if it is prepared to deny the principle of home rule, then the power which the Constitution confers of "exclusive legislation in all cases over the District of Columbia" should be assumed by transferring the management to one of the public departments. Responsibility ought to be fixed and clear, so that the taxpayers who contribute millions every year for the support of the local Government hould know exactly where the money goes

There is no doubt that the wise and honest nen in the Republican party have profited by the warning administered by the November elections, and wish to prevent any further waste of the public revenues by a trenchant reduction of taxation. So much has been demonstrated by the President's message and by the report of the Secretary of the Treasury. But there are already signs that the corrupt element in the same party neans to gull the people if it can, and relies upon the large number of Congressmen who have been repudiated by their constituents to carry through schemes of mock retronchment and delusive reform. It is well to unmask some of these projects at the outset, and to point out at once the motives by which their authors are actuated and the methods by which they hope to win. We need scarcely say that those Republi-

can statesmen of whom SECOR ROBESON, CHANDLER, KEIFER, PAGE, and JAY HUB-BELL are types would not, if they could help it, lift a finger to contract the surplus which as afforded a pretext for their raids upon the Treasury. In the face of public opinion, however, they will not venture to set themselves squarely against the current of reform, but they will try in surreptitious ways to relax its impetus and divert it from its true objects. They will aim, in the first place, to leave intact the largest portion of the estimated surplus, in order to provide a handsome margin for the jobs which they do not yet despair of seeing ratified by the Forty-seventh Congress. As regards, moreover, such moderate reductions of taxation as they dare not resist, they will try to so adjust them as to serve the interests of the large manufacturers whose pecuplary contributions have beretofore been useful to the Republican party, and so as to leave undiminished the huge corps of officehokiers by whose assessments campaign funds are created. There are still about two years to intervene before the next Presidential election, and "practical politicians" of the Robeson and Hubbell type will do their

utmost to prevent any serious impairment of the resources from which they expect to draw the sinews of war. For these reasons the disreputable element of the Republican party will strenuously oppose any such trenchant dealing with the internal revenue system as is recommended in the President's message. As we have heretofore shown, the summary abolition of all internal revenue taxes except those on distilled liquors would wipe out at one stroke the surplus which, according to Mr. Folger, may reasonably be expected both for the current twelvemonth and in the next fiscal year. Such a piece of legislation would be a deathblow to all the schemes of plunder, whose authors would not otherwise abandon hope until the last hour of the Forty-seventh Congress. But that is not by any means the sole objection to such a measure in the eyes of practical poll-ticians. The total abrogation of all internal revenue taxes except the impost on spirits would be extremely disagreeable to a few large capitalists-certain manufacturers of chewing tobacco and friction matches, for example -who under the present system, which allows them to buy stamps at a reduced rate in large quantities, have been protected against the competition of small dealers, and have thus acquired a virtual monopoly of the market. Should these men find themselves stripped of such advantages, and condemned to manufacture under the unwented conditions of a fair field and no favor, they would not be disposed to give

pecuniary assistance to a party which had introduced and supported a bill detrimental to their interests. Nor is this, again, the only ground on which Gen. ARTHUR'S suggestion will prove offensive to statesmen of the Hun-BELL species. The Internal Revenue Bureau has 5,000 salaried employees, and about onehalf of these would have to be at once discharged if all internal revenue taxes except the duty on spirits were to be abolished. It of employees would entail a material saving of the public money; but the practical politician cares nothing about that. What he looks at is the serious curtailment of the list of officeholders to whom the Republican

Now, it needs very little penetration or experience to foresee how Robeson and his licutenants in the House of Representatives will proceed in order to avert a genuine rethe smaller ones, are managed for far less | trenchment which, for them, as we have seen, would have unpleasant results. They will begin by setting affoat rumors affecting the correctness of the estimate from which the surplus of \$75,000,600 has been deduced. As if the data collected and authenticated by the Secretary of the Treasury were not more trustworthy than the loose assertions and pretended misgivings of the interested and irresponsible advocates of a wasteful policy! The aim, however, of these persons, who assume to know Mr. Folger's business so much better than he does himself, is sufficiently palpable. If they can engender a feeling of distrust in the Secretary's estimates, they will then dwell on the necessity of caution, and recommend that, instead of torevenue system, a number of the taxes shall be to some extent reduced. In this way, it will be argued, a portion of the surplus may be at once done away with, and

party is to look for political assessments in

the campaigns of 1883 and 1884.

prove correct, further steps can be taken in the same direction. To carry out this plausible policy, whose object is to be fool the people by a sham retrenchment, the practical politicians who assume the leadership of the House of Representatives do not need to frame a new bill. There is already, it appears, a bill before the Senate which is open to none of the objections on the part of monopolists It was said that it would only result in transand officeholders which have been above enumerated. This bill is not an abolishing, but a scaling measure; it lowers a number of the internal revenue taxes, and remits in the aggregate about \$23,000,000; but it relarge manufacturers have profited, and it | plete statistics as to these children-how keeps in office almost the whole of the large a proportion of them succumbed to inpresent force of clerks, gaugers, collectors, and so forth, now employed by the Internal

Revenue Bureau. By this or some analogous measure the men who have hitherto controlled the Republican majority in the House of Repre-

form. But all sensible and honest men know that the people of this country can be cheated by no such subterfuge. What our taxpayers mean to have from the Fortyseventh Congress or from its successor i such a lightening of their burdens as shall completely wipe out the existing surplus of \$75,000,000, and they mean to have this effected in such a way as shall proportionably decrease the cost of collecting the public revenues. They do not purpose to pay the same number of officeholders the same salaries for doing a much smaller amount of work.

A Representative Author.

The many novels of the late Mr. ANTHONY TROLLOPE are not likely to hold a high place in literature, and his name will scarcely be included in the list of the great English novelists of this century which posterity will make up. It is not probable that we shall ever demand luxurious editions of his works, such as those put out of the imperishable productions of that great master of style, THACKERAY. Many of Mr. TROLLOPE's novels have already passed out of public recollection, or are laid away like an old newspaper, which in its day was fresh and interesting, but has become of no particular importance. Besides twenty-two other works, up to 1879 he had produced the great number of thirty-seven novels, hardly quarter of the names of which could now be recalled by even the most persistent render of his easily flowing flction.

Yet the novels of Mr. TROLLOPE will be of much value to the future historical student who wishes to learn of the manners and customs and to discover the tone of English society, and especially English aristocratic society, of this generation. He will find in them a faithful pic-ture, almost photographic in its accuracy, of the rather commonplace life and conventional standards of that society. Its well-regulated passions, its cleverness and its stupidity, its outdoor and indoor amusements, its etiquette, and its views of love and marriage are all described by Mr TROLLOPE with conscientious minuteness and with a fidelity to nature akin to that of an academic painter who draws directly from the model. He has had imitators, of course, and fashionable people alone are the subjects of very much of the current English fletion, but be was preëminently the novelist of the drawing room and of aristocratic life.

Mr. TROLLOPE was also what we may call representative author of this generation in his manner of working. He made a methodical business of writing, trusting no more to his moods in conducting it, and regarding them no more than if he had been a bookkeeper or an accountant, instead of a man of letters. He set himself his daily task of composition, and accomplished it with regularity and uniformity. Thus he was separated from the poets and romancers of other days who have hung upon the skirts of literature waiting for the moment of inspiration, now deep in despondency and now exalted and sanguine, turning night into day and day into night, excited and depressed, stimulated or suffering from nervous reaction. He did not regard himself or treat himself as an exceptional being, a creature to be coddled, because he earned his living by writing. He went at his work as men usually do who mean to accomplish something for which they expect to get good pay, economizing his time, husbanding his strength, and avoiding all irregularities which would interfere with his successful progress. In that way Mr. TROLLOPE was able to do a vast deal of work in his lifetime and to make himself very easy pecuniarily. Moreover, his method has got to be the usual one among authors of our day. They have their regular hours of work like other men, and can be depended upon to do what they undertake systematically and with punctuality.

Probably the rapid extension of periodical publication in our time has greatly contributed to this result. The majority of writers are engaged on work which must be ready practical profession. In truth, never before was the profession of letters, as it is called so much of a profession as it is now. There is a certainty about the demand for the work t produces, that was unknown formerly. It comparison with other professions, and for its successful prosecution both diligence and

methodical industry are required. The man of letters has therefore become an orderly man of business, expecting to be treated like other sensible people, having an outward appearance which does not distinguish him from the run of his fellows, not asking toleration for bad manners and habits of self-indulgence on the score that he is under the special protection of the muses. In fine, the representative author of our day, whether he be poet, novelist, historian, or his right mind, and by no means a disagreeable fellow to get along with.

But, after all, Mr. Trollope's work smells too much of the machinery. It shows too unmistakably that it was turned out to order, and that the raw material, though of a very limited variety, has been made to go a great way. The product, therefore, is apt to be thin, and of loose texture. Great and lasting literary work is not done in that way.

The Children Sent Away from New York. Since the 1st of February, 1854, the Children's Aid Society of this city has sent to homes and employment in the West and other parts of the Union the great total of 67,287 destitute children of New York. We count them all as children, though we observe that of the whole number sent during the present year a small proportion were men and women. Out of the 3,957 so provided for in 1882 there were 101 men and 182 women, 2,167 boys and 1,507 girls. This emigration undertaking, as the society calls it. is, however, specifically for children, and its success or failure can now be pretty well established by following the career of the earlier emigrants, who have reached maturity, afterward, should Mr. Folger's estimate and are displaying the effects produced on

them by their transplantation. On the theory that such children, picked up in the streets and withdrawn from evil associations, would be likely to have an inheritance of qualities both moral and physical which would prevent their development into desirable members of society, whatever their surroundings, the whole of this emigration business has been frequently criticised planting vice. If we may trust the reports given by the agents of the society, however those evil anticipations have not been justified by the facts.

It would be very interesting and of much scientific importance if we could get comherited diseases, how many became useful members of the community, and whether a larger share of them than the ordinary average fell into vicious habits. But such statistics we do not find in the reports. Probably it is not feasible to obtain them. The sentatives may endeavor to frustrate the society cannot keep its eye on all of the the capital, though comparatively few of popular demand for retrenchment and re- great number it sends away, for their places

of residence are likely to change, and neither they nor their protectors may be willing to make reports concerning them, not earing to expose their unhappy early condition. Undoubtedly, too, we may be more likely to hear of the lapses of those who do ill than the creditable lives of those who do well. On that account, indeed, the society claims, the emigration scheme has suffered from injurious attacks which are

entirely unjustifiable. Lacking the full statistics which are so desirable, we must content ourselves with a partial report of the career of some of the children sent West twenty or twenty-five years ago made by the resident Western agent of the society. The boys and girls concerning whom he gives a more or less detailed account number twenty-three, and were removed from New York between 1857 and 1869. The reports are all so satisfactory that it is obvious that the cases were selected because they could be used to advantage. A fairer course would have been to include a much larger number of children in the report, instead of taking only a few striking examples of improvement, as those cited evi-

dently are. For instance, one orphan boy, sent in 1859 at 12 years of age, to Indiana, he found had become a Justice of the Peace and a leading and respected citizen. Another is a leading lawyer of the town in which he was placed, and "a candidate for the office of Prosecuting Attorney." A third is a "promising law yer, a member of the church, and much interested in Sabbath school work." Two are well-known teachers. Another is a successful physician, another a successful artist, and a third is a deputy clerk of the Circuit Court. Among the number are a "prominent missionary," a stenographer with a good salary. a civil engineer, and several men successful business or mechanical employments. The girls are all married, with one exception, and well married; and of the spinster the report is that she is a "very nice girl, in a very nice family, filling in every respect the place of a daughter."

The agent concludes by saying: "I have many more names in my note book, but it seems really superfluous to mention them. The truth is, not all the boys we send out become doctors or lawyers, but a very large majority become respectable and useful citizens." We do not agree with him, however. that it was superfluous to mention any except the more brilliant cases. He ought rather to have given a fair average, good and bad, to enable us to judge accurately of the success of the emigration scheme. It is generally the fashion of men in situations like his to present to the public only the attractive side of philanthropic and religious undertakings, and to smooth over whatever has a less seemly appearance. They have a professional ndisposition to telling the whole truth.

So far as we have been able to get them however, the facts regarding the subsequent lives of the children sent away by the society in whose employment he is, and other like charitable agencies, seem to show that the emigration experiment has been successful.

A few days ago, Mr. KELLEY went out o the way to have it announced that he would bring in a bill to abolish the whole internal revenue abomination, which costs about five millions a year and supports a standing arm; of some four thousand partisans. Instead of this sweeping measure, he reported a bill or Tuesday, striking off the taxes on tobacco in all forms. Is Mr. KELLEY recovering from the recent shock of the November election?

Internal revenue taxes have been authorized three times in the history of the country-for the Revolutionary war, for the war of 1812, and for the war of the rebellion. They were abolished dition of ability in the Treasury correspond ing to that which now exists. They can only be justified by an absolute necessity of the clearest kind in time of peace.

The astronomers should be congratulated. Their observations of the transit of Venus on Wednesday seem to have been upon the whole remarkably successful. In only a few places was the sky so cloudy as to prevent any obserat a set time, and in a quantity more or less set, and accordingly they treat writing as a clouds interfered with the work good results assume that France does not pay smaller salworkmanship attained by our modern opticians in the construction of the lenses of telescopes. The "black drop" which in the last century obtains steady and well-paid employment in of the internal contacts, and which even seriously interfered with the observation after the transit of 1874 was looked upon as a most troublesome phenomenon, caused very little annoyance on the present occasion. Some observers, who were favored with fine weather, saw no black drop at all, and were able to detect almost the exact instant when the edge of Venus and the rim of the sun were in contact, both being clearly and sharply de-fined. The photographs taken are said to be of great excellence, and, in fact, all the methods of observation used appear to have given satisfactory results. The observers sent to the southern hemisphere were no less successful than those in the northern hemisphere. There newspaper writer, is usually clothed and in is every indication that when the records of the observations have been combined, and the mathematical computations made, the result will show a gratifying advance in the accuracy of astronomical measurements.

As was anticipated, some interesting observations relating to the planet Venus were made. Careful measurements of her diameter were obtained and the analyzing powers of the spectroscope were successfully applied to her atmosphere, in which Prof. Young detected in dications of the existence of aqueous vapor, This, so far as it goes, may be regarded as showing a resemblance between the atmosphere of Venus and that of the earth. One of Prof. Young's assistants also detected unknown lines in the spectrum of Venus's atmosphere.

A very curious observation was made by Prof. S. P. LANGLEY at Pittsburgh. When Venus had entered about half way upon the sun's disk, he saw near the circumference of the dark body of the planet outside the sun's disk a bright point of light. This could not have en caused by reflection of the sun's rays, for the place where it appeared was out of the reach of sunshine. Prof. LANGLEY says it was certainly not a phenomenon of irradiation nor a result of any defect in the observing instrument. If the observation had been made by an astronomer of less skill and experience than Prof. LANGLEY, it would probably be looked upon as an optical illusion. What there can be upon the surface of Venus capable of causing such an appearance musremain a matter of conjecture. Certainly no body will suspect the supposed inhabitants of Venus of having lighted up a tremendous bonfire in honor of the transit, for they were probably unaware of the interesting part their planet vas playing in the celestial spectacle, of which the inhabitants of the earth were the only spectators. Some astronomers have estimated the height of the mountains of Venus at twenty miles; but even if a volcano of such gigantic size had been in full activity, it could not have caused the light seen by the Pittsburgh astronomer, as he says it extended thirty degrees along the planet's limb, which would correspond to an actual length of some two thousand miles.

The unnecessary firing of pistols in the streets by policemen and other persons to whom the power of making arrests is delegated ought to be stopped. Sometimes it is a stray steer that serves as a target and a pretext for the shooting, and at other times some person running away to escape arrest draws a fusillade. Yesterday Inspector Newcome of the Post Office fired his revolver in the air in order to intimidate an alleged thief whom he was pursuing; but, as usually happens, the

fugitive was not intimidated. Bullets fired into the air must strike somewhere, and in a city pobody can tell what harm they may do.

Mr. Plunger Walton has offered to keep he streets of Philadelphia clean for five years for \$500,000 a year. The Plunger should no let his ambition overleap itself. The streets of New York ought to absorb all his energy for some time. They are far from being in perfeet condition yet.

Texas, with its 175,000,000 acres of territory, it would naturally be inferred, would be about the last State to have an agitation of the land question, yet the journals of that State give evidence that the subject of land tenure being seriously considered by the people. The trouble is chiefly in the coast counties and n western Texas, where vast tracts are held by cattle and sheep speculators and non-resilent purchasers. Thousands and tens of thousands of acres are in single holdings. The owners do nothing to build up and im prove the country, and they prevent the growth of settlements by refusing to subdivide their lands. A writer in the Galceston News compares the situation there to that in Ireland, and demands legislative checks to the growing evil, but suggests no practical remedy.

A VERY WONDERFUL BODY.

The French-American Commission Adjudin Cost of More than \$300,000.

nificance that so many of those palatial residences of which so much has been heard, and many of the newest, as well as the most costly, should be at the present moment on the market, and either openly or privately offered for sale, in some instances at prices that promise no gain to the owners. There is significance also in the fact that generally the owners belong to the dying dynasty, the property being up for sale mainly because it is dying, and, in some cases, because, also, the owners are alrendy politically dead.

In the good old Democratic times the quarter at and bordering on the east end of Pennsylvania avenue was the seat of fashion and real values. Those times may never fully return, but surely it is not improbable that a complete change in the control of the Government, the fall of the present dynasty and the rise of a new one will not be without its influence on this quarter of the seat of Government. Already, if not new life itself, the influence of the hope of it and a strong belief that it will come is already felt there. The pricking of the ears of speculation is seen.

The exact relation of political domination at the Capitol to the price of real estate—the growth of one section, and the decline of another—may as yet be a question involving doubts in the minds of some. Whatever may be the actual fact as to this, it is nevertheless true that hope springs even now in the breast of many a holder who has waited for the change which now seems to be approaching.

Will the Democracy return to its old quarters? Down-town hotels have for guests certain noted characters who have not for years held forth there. There is even talk of new hotels below Sixth street on a scale of unsurpassed magnificence. The days when Clay, Crittenden, Calhoun, Clayton, Benton, Bemen, Webster, Evans, Fessenden, and the great men whose names mark a distinct cra in our history, were all domiciled below Seventh street, are beginning to be talked about. A new department building a theatre, and banks, are among the things in th WASHINGTON, Dec. 5 .- One of the matters that should command the immediate at-tention of Congress is what is known as French-American Claims Commission. The readers of THE SUN will remember that in January, 1880, a treaty was made between the United States and France by which a joint Commission was formed, consisting of a representative of France, selected by that republie, a representative of the United States, se lected by our own Government, and a third Commissioner named by the Emperor of Brazil. To this Commission was to be referred for final adjudication all claims of citizens of France against the United States, and of citigens of the United States against France.

France named for its Commissioner M. L. de Geofroy, the United States named a chronic officeholder from Vermont, Asa O. Aldis; and the Emperor of Brazil named Baron de Arinos, who was, of course, made the President of the Commission, although it would seem he is so only nominally. Each of the Commissioners receives \$8,000 a year. The treaty provided in article 8 that the Commission should expire in wo years after its first meeting. During this time it was "bound to examine and decide apon every claim submitted to it." It was also provided that the "period shall not be extended except only in case the proceedings be interrupted by death, incapacity, retirement, or essation of the functions of any one of the Commissioners."

Well, the Commission met and organized on

Dec. 20, 1880. Under the treaty this made it obligatory upon it to examine and decide all ases submitted to it by the 20th of December. 1882. Its time is up one week from next

Wednesday.

The Commission has rented and occupied a handsomely furnished house, almost adjoining the Arlington Hotel, in the aristocratic part of plained of. The question will be taken up in the spirit of the President's message. he city. The whole of a large mansion has seen taken for the use of the Commission and in extensive staff of expensive clerks.

George S. Boutwell of Massachusetts was appointed agent and counsel for the United States, at a salary of \$5,000. John Davis, who has the honor to be the son-in-law of Secretary Frelinghuysen, was made assistant counsel, at salary of \$3,500. He held the place until his distinguished father-in-law called him up higher, as Assistant Secretary of State, when he was succeeded by W. H. Edwards. Wash-ington F. Peddrick is the secretary of the Com-mission on behalf of the United States, at a salary of \$3,000. There are several cierks, whose salaries, together with "sundries," including, perhaps, under that stereotyped head. lunches from the Arlington, have required an

expenditure of \$6,500.

The French republic named as its agent M. Grimaud de Caux, whose name recalls some unpleasant reminiscences of a former Commistion; as counsel another gentleman, whose name is also familiar to the public M Charles Adolph de Chambrun, and as assistant counsel, A. P. Morse. What these gentlemen are paid by the French Government is unknown. But the expenses of the Commission, as known, amount to \$42,000 a year, and, as it is safe to were nevertheless obtained. There is one fact aries than the United States, we may put down which speaks volumes for the perfection of the cost at \$18,000 making a total of \$60,000 tall. We have a speak to contain the cost at \$18,000 making a total of \$60,000 tall. \$18,000, making a total of \$60,000 a year, or \$120,000 from Dec. 20, 1880, to the 20th of the present month-with what pitiful re-

sults we shall now see. There have been filed with the Commission 726 claims against the United States, and 19 against France. These claims aggregate be tween \$20,000,000 and \$30,000,000. Out of the aggregate of 745 claims only 15 awards have been made, amounting all told to \$14,000. A few have been rejected. This is the fruit of two years' labor.

The claimants have been represented by able lawyers who have spent much time and money in collecting the testimony in each case, and who have of course a lively interest in secur-ing a speedy adjudication of the cases. But these attorneys have been met by a disposition upon the part of the Commission to delay matters in every possible way. Prograstionation is and has been the order of the day. The men who are astutely working this out are Messrs Boutwell and Aldis, who are practically the Commission. Mr. Boutwell, it may be remempered, passed from revising the United States Statutes at \$5,000 per year, to a place on the Commission at \$5,000 also.

The expenditure of \$120,000 to adjudiente \$14. 000, would seem to be enormous, but that sum does not represent more than one-third of the amount already spent by the Commission, Special agents, those peculiar employees who are supposed to be a cross between a detective officer and a judge, have been employed to hunt up testimony and take evidence. The expenses for these agents have been about \$250,000. All of this is paid out of the United States Treasury as vouchers already filed with the Fifth Auditor attest.

On Nov. 20 the Commission met, as was expected, for one of its last sessions, and to render its judgments. But it was announced to the astonishment of every one that pending cases would be continued for six months, Congress having, at the request of the Commission. extended its life for that time. Curses deep, if not loud, were plentiful just about this time.

Messrs. Aidis and Boutwell and their special igents have a good thing, and they propose to make it last as long as possible. The Congress of the United States ought to Interfere.

Plays and Players.

To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: We are sternally hearing of actors and actresses gaining a New York reputation," and also that a New York critican make or mar an actor. How is it, then, that Mrs. Langtry had the most successful engagement (finan-cially) ever given in New York? She was patronized, I inderstand, chiefly by hest judges of the drama. The critics declared she was no actress at all, or at least a very poor one. All these facts I cannot reconcile. I would like a direct or indirect reply in your paper GLEN COVE, Dec. 5. Yours, truly, J. C. INCESON.

Many persons labor under misapprehension in supposing that actors and actresses are made or marred in honest newspaper columns. The efforts of some are approved and those of others disapproved, and that is all there is of it. Curiosity was satisfied in seeing Mrs. Langtry. She did not profess to be much of an actress, and her talents received what they deserved. As far as THE SUN is conerned, its honest judgment is given on plays and players, as on everything else,

A Man who Owns a Madstone.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: For years To THE LIBROIL OF THE SUN-Set. FOR PEARS I have owned and used a madelone, and have cured here and eisewhere over seventy patients of the bite of man degre surskes and sonders son parts, neutragia, sere eyer inflammation, rising of the breast, and delemma. CRAWFORDSVILLE Origin

REAL ESTATE IN WASHINGTON. Its Fluctuating Values Through the Changes of Parties.

was turned unnaturally in a certain direction

It would have been in any other just as freely

under the operation of identical causes. The

disposition to crowd into the court end

eminently human everywhere and always.

One costly residence was quite certain to be

excel the one preceding it. This and the

quality of snobbishness soon filled the vacant

what was once fashionable should cease to be so.

The Shepherd era was a distinct and impor-

tant part of the dynasty that now seems totter-

ing. The momentum acquired under him con

tinued long after he cossed to be a power or in

any manner operated in furtherance of his

magnificent plans. It is a sign of no little sig-

dences of which so much has been heard, and

MR. KASSON'S CIVIL SERVICE BILL

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6 .- Republican leaders

are quite generally disposed to treat civil service reform seriously and give the country a

measure framed with an earnest intent to

strike at the roots of many of the evils com-

Representative Kasson's bill, elaborated dur-

ing the recess and finished since the election,

finds favor not only with the committee but in

The bill provides that appointments through

idea of what the people want,

as indicated by the elections. It is as follows:

Bills as thorough as this have been framed before, but not with the approval and cooperation of the "bosses." This is one of the curious things about it—the bosses turned reformers. The bill is understood to reflect the views of the President and it may be considered as an Administration measure

the 8), o'clock boat from Hoboken each morning is a gang of small boys, continually be-

At morning.
The small laye, of course, do not tire of the chase, and is result will be that they will drive their victim to end is terms in a watery grave, if his does not take unther route to New Yerk.

Can't Tax Sex save the gentleman from such a fate ! Mosterain, N. J., Dec. d. H. C. Dopar.

A Colored Gentleman's Complaint.

y before the public, through the columns of a

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I wish to

nfluential journal, another of the great injustices to the

Yesterday (Monday) I called on Mr. Howell of the Mn.

tual Telegraph Institution, 1.297 Breadway, and pro-posed to that gentleman that myself and two colored friends would attend his school to morrow (Tuesday) to

triends would aftend his school to morrow (Tuesday) to learn the art of telegraphy, accepting his usual terms. So per mointh. He politely informed me that he could not accept my offer, as it would be against his business principles, and secondly, that it would interfere with his procuring situations for his present scholars, adding that there was a college down in the Bowery where my race or money would not be objected by.

I have never heard that Western Union, Mutual, or railroad men would object to colored operators. I wish to know if there is any clause in this "Blue Sinday act that would compel this gentleman to instruct our race in the art of telegraphy? J. H. Mackingtonic (Colored).

Open the Museum of Natural History on Sanday.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The

above institution was thrown open to the public upon a holiday, on Thanksgiving. Myself and two young friends visited the Museum to-day (Thanksgiving), and

have been delighted and instructed by the visit. Had we

nave been delighter and instructed by the visit. Had we not seek a place to visit, we would probably have spent the day in the theatre, or playing pool for firinks. I would like to see the Sinday opening movement of the Museum advocated by our elegymentand faymen for it is one of the most instructive, moral, and amusing places the young people of our city could spend a day in. Let our clerkymen take the matter in hand, and they will find it will keep many of our young men from tad places on the Sabbath day.

J. S.

It is the Same One Going Away.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-So: This morning at ten minutes to to clock I saw a comet far in the southeast, very large, but not nearly so bright as the last one. Do you think it is the same one returning Naw York, Duc. 7. W. S. F.

who are gaying a gentleman

entioned only to be ridiculed.

nificance that so many of those palatial resi

readily traced.

-A Boston paper laments the decline of aked beans in the city of their former glory WASHINGTON, Dec. 6 .- The rise and fall of

-The Winchester (III.) jail cost \$49,000 with all modern improvements. Three prisoners escaped within twenty-four hours after its dedication. real estate in Washington throughout the dif--In Yorkshire, lately, a pauper declined

SUNDEAMS

ferent political d; nasties is an interesting study. Real estate during the term of the dythe regulation bath on admission. The reason became apparent when his belt was discovered to contain \$710. nasty which, apparently, is soon to go has been effected by many influences. They may be -Next summer a large number of Indian -Next summer is large number of indian burial monds are to be examined, under the direction of the Canadian Institute, and a moseum will be filled with the relies that will doubtless be found.

Notwithstanding "the penceful attitude. The Shepherd era was too conspicuous, and left its marks too distinctly to be forgotten. During that time the growth of Washington

of the people " in the Loughres Galway district, as at-ested by Mr. Clifford Llovd, the Galway hounds were attacked at all points and the hunt was stopped.

—MM. Piette and Krizik, at an agricultural

gathering at Lundenburg, in Germany, drove an ordi-nary threshing machine by electricity, attaining a speed of 1.49) turns a minute, and illuminating at the same followed by a dozen others, the last aiming to time the yard in which the machines were exhibited.

The Prince of Naples, heir of the King of Italy, sustained such a shock when the attempt was made, in his presence, on his father's life, that he was places. But it is according to experience that

threatened with a nervous trembling, which, it was feared, would turn to palsy. He has only lately got en--Prof. Chandler, being disturbed while - Prof. Chandler, being disturbed while lecturing to some ill-bred medical students, passed until all eyes were directed toward the offenders, and said: "I suspect that it is in my power to teach those young gentlemen something that will be of more use to them in after life than chemistry, I wear manners."

—In 1881 18,670 persons were killed by

snakes in India, and 2,757 by wild animals; 43,099 head of cattle were destroyed by snakes and wild animals during the same year; 254,008 snakes and 15,274 wild animals were destroyed, and 102,810 rupees were paid by Government in rewards for their destruction.

-During the week ending Oct. 2 there were 536 admissions of typhsid patients into the Paris bospi-tals. The number at present under treatment is esti-mated at 3,000. The cause is attributed to composite be-neath the houses. Flats in fashionable quarters and renting at from \$1,000 to \$2,500 are inferior in sanitary appliances to the cottages of English workingmen -Dr. Alonzo Clark says: "It is an old

error to suppose that persons who have cardian (heart)-disease must die suddenly. They may and others may." He also states, in connection with one of the most dangerous forms of valvular trouble: "The number of instances in which persons die with this lesion suddenly compared with those who die a lingering death, is small." -The divided skirt and the hygienic petti-

coat having proved hopeless failures, the Women's Dress Reform Association of London will offer prizes this winter for a design intended to do away with the in conveniences of the present styles, without making too marked a departure from "the distinguishing character-istics of female attire." The problem is believed to be a -The work of the French postal service has

been augmented in a striking degree during the last four years. The following figures are taken from the last returns. The total transmissions increased from 885,000,000 in 1877 to 1,350,000,000 in 1881; letters went from 374,000,000 to 563,000,000, and newspapers from 219,000,000 to 354,000,000. Post cards, however, are be coming less popular in France. There are now 6,487 Post -By a royal decree the oft-debated ques-

tion as to the colors proper to Prussian provinces is thus settled: East Prussia, black and white; west, black-white-black; Brandenburg, red and white; Silesta, white and yellow; Pomerania, blue and white; Posen, crimson, blue, and white: Westphalia, white and red; Han-over, yellow and white: Hohensodorn, white and black. The colors for Saxe, Schleswig-Holstein, and Hesse Nassau will be soon fixed upon.

-Preparations of every conceivable kind for a befitting national celebration of the silver wedding of the Crown Prince and Princess of Prussia, on Jan. of the Crown Prince and Princess of Prussis, on Jan. 25, are under way. The leading idea is to raise a fund to be employed by them after their own judgment and pleasure in the creation or in furtherance of a number of benevolent institutions—a practice eminently to their tasts. Committees to further this end are being constituted in the larger cities.

—Lead from church windows facing east

quarters where heretofore reform has been is yet believed in some remote country places in Schles-wig to be a certain cure for the falling sickness. The out the civil service shall be made upon qualiremedy cures by the touch, but to be effective should be stolen at the hour of midnight by the sick person, who must be alone. Village churches in Schleswig are lofications and fitness to be ascertained by a commission, and that promotion shall be ac-cording to the results of a competitive examin-ation. Section 5 is as follows: cated in the burying ground, and as few superstitious persons have the courage to brave its terrors at the hour when ghosts are abroad, the "cure" is sufficiently rars Ation. Section 5 is as follows:

That all appointments shall be first made on probation for such time as the officers making them shall by regulation prescribe, not less than three months, nor more than one year from the date of first appointment, at the end of which period, if found qualified, the applicant shall receive his regular appointment for a term of six years, and shall not be removed during such term except for cause, as hereinafter prescribed.

to have preserved its reputation for efficacy from the middle ages to the present day.

—At a recent School Board meeting in London, the Lord Mayor silowed each candidate a quarter of an hour's speaking. Sir John Bennett was the first to speak, and when he had gone through his fifteen minutes, the Lord Mayor brought down his hammer. "Is time up?" inquired Sir John. "It is;" "Not yet, I think, my Lord Mayor," insinuated Sir John. "I think so," replied the Lord Mayor. "I have two minutes more by my watch," and Sir John "and you can also more by my watch." performance of duties. The next section reads as follows:

Sec. 6. This no person now holding an appointment of the character in the first section unentioned, and serving in either department at Washington, shall be removed except for cause, as hereinafter prescribed: Provided, that when such person shall have already Saithfully served for six years or more consecutively in the same department of the public service, he shall receive a new appointment under this act, such new appointment under this act, such new appointment to be made within one year from the passage of this act; and, in like manner, when any other person now in office shall reach the period when he shall have faithfully served in the same department for the term of six years consecutively, be shall receive a new appointment for one additional term. All appointments made under this act shall cover any promotion of the appointee made during his tenure of office, as herein regulated. more by my watch," said Sir John, "and you can al ways depend upon my watch." This neat advertise-ment was received with considerable merriment. Sir John is a notable clockmaker.

-An American medical student in Vienna was permitted to take part in an operation which resulted in much injury to a new-born child, and, taking the matter to heart, he absented him: elicited some well-meant comments from the house sur-geon, with a good natured reflection on his moral cowardice. The student, greatly irritated, challenged professor. It is contrary to ctiquette for professors and students to fight duels, so the professor declined, explaining that nothing offensive had been meant. The student, who must be a consummate ass, then went to the American Minister, who sustained the professor.

as indicated by the elections. It is as follows:

That no member of Congress, nor officer of the Government, nor member of any political committee, shall in writing or by print, address or cause to be addressed to any person holding an appending on any person holding an appending on any person holding an appending on the description of the first section of this act, or to any laborer on ployed by the Government, any request, demand or in vitation for a contribution of money for the use of any political party, from such appointer, for the use of any political party, from such appointer, the payment of any specific sum of money or percentage of his compensation.

Sec. 11. That any person violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdementary and shall be liable to a fine not exceeding one thousand doliars for each offense, to be recovered, in any court of the United States having jurisdiction of such offences: Provided, That the same shall be prosecuted within one year from the commission of the offence.

Bills as thorough as this have been framed. -Mr. Coreoran, in arranging for the reoval of John Howard Payne's remains, supposed that he had no next of kin living, but his brother's only child is the wife of the Rev. Lea Luquer (by whom she has two sons and a daughter), Episcopal uninister of lied-ford, Westchester county. Mr. Luquer's father was the representative of a family long seated on lands around Gowanus Bay, now absorbed into Brooklyn, of which he became one of the real estate owners. He was nearly affied to the Lefferts family, and his widow, sail resident in the spacious old mansion, is a daughter of the late Dominick Lynch of New York, who was the

means of first bringing high-class opera to New York.

-Mr. Preston, author of "Unclaimed Mon-A Street Boys' Vicitm.

To the Editor of The Sun-Sat: On the St. welcock boat from Hoboken each morning is a game of small boys, continually being resistored who are games of small boys, continually being resistored who are games of small boys, continually being resistored who are games of small boys, continually being resistored who are games of small boys, continually being resistored who are games of small boys, continually being resistored who are games of small boys, continually being resistored who are games of small boys, continually being resistored who are games of small boys, continually being the considered as an article Lemioners by announcing that the new Palace of Justice has been mainly raised with the surplus interest of smitors' money, the Courts of Justice has been mainly raised with the surplus interest of smitors' money, the Courts of Justice has been mainly raised with the surplus interest of smitors' money, the Courts of Justice has been mainly raised with the surplus interest of smitors' money, the Courts of Justice has been mainly raised with the surplus interest of smitors' money. The Courts of Justice has been mainly raised with the surplus interest of smitors' money. The Courts of Justice has been mainly raised with the surplus interest of smitors' money. The Courts of Justice has been mainly raised with the new palace of Justice has been mainly raised with the surplus interest of smitors' money. The Courts of Justice has been mainly raised with the surplus interest of smitors' money. The Courts of Justice has been mainly raised with the surplus interest of smitors' money. The Courts of Justice has been mainly raised with the surplus interest of smitors' money. The Courts of Justice has been mainly raised with the new palace of Justice has been mainly raised with the surplus interest of smitors' money. The Courts of Justice has been mainly raised with the surplus interest of smitors' money. The Courts of Justice has been mainly raised with the surplus interest of smitors' money. The C who had declared them a public nuisance and had who had declared them a public nuisance and had all the had been made to remove them from the cabin.

These true specimens of the "unsalted generation" lie in wait for their victim, greet him boy sterously, and in wait for their victim, greet him boy sterously, and that the dovernment will make good all the money that appropriated to all claims which shall be substantiated.

A discovery has been made labely by a years ago it was £7,500,000, and 2,385 accounts. The

he had declared them a had declared them to alled in the deck hands to remove them to alled in the deck hands to remove them to the time specimens of the "unsaited generation" me in wait for their victim, greet him bey sterously, and the them 'tall in 'behind him, stanging their feet in time with his and cutting up monkeyshines while he with his allest him he adout him sugging 'He's a diasy, in a salt group around him, sugging 'He's a diasy, in a sulf remains district to include the finance of the him who cannot have a diam's the control of the him of the district of the him of the salt in the salt of the him of the salt in the salt of the him of the salt in the salt of the him of the salt in the salt of the him of the salt in the salt of the him of the salt in the salt of the salt in th

writers allode to them only in casual passages, and the arrow-headed inscriptions, although mentioning them very often, have hitherto yielded scanty information. -Canon Basil Wilberforce says that he read the Archhishop of York's recent demonstration of the vices of workingmen. The particular aims which the Archhishop condemned were "sporting drinking and other debasing partimes." The Canon says he tigged other debasing pastines." The Canon says he turned over his newspaper after reading the above, and he observed: 1. The restoration of the drinking and danging hierase to a house notorious for aristocratic profigacy.

2. Graphic accounts of the zambling transactions of the aristocracy in a well-known West End racing claim. The betting upon the next horse race chronicled in the same type as the news from Egypt and the doings of the innerial Parliament. Imperial Parliament, 4. Two highly aristocratic divorcases. He is accordingly driven to the combinion that "to sould the workingmen for sporting and vice, and out to carry the same crosade boldly into higher quarters, is to strain at national gnats, and swallow national came is York has oftentimes dwelt in no gentle language on hee

-During the French invasion of Spain some of the imperial troops broke open the total at Kar-gos, which contained all that was mortal of Ros Door de Bivar, better known and famous in Castilian song and story as the "Cid Campeador," and of his wife 25 menn. The remains were empted on the floor, but a French officer named Le Martillet and the Primes sales. Dyck collected the relies and placed them in a soul sarcophagus, copied exactly from the one in which they had remained for more than seven centuries. This sar ceptagus has now been discovered in the castis of a Prince of the Hohencollern family, who is failer of the present King of Romania, who, in answer to an other of request from King Alphonse, has generous a conselthat the remains of the great culeficing and his wife should once more rest beneath the sumy siles of 2000. It is not a little singular that the family does recorded to Spain the relies of the "Cat" was about two less. ago to supply a king to return of the Escottal wars which followed but seed a ratio and Pe the Hohenzoliera avenge the descented tomer of march

vices of the rich.